



CITY OF LODI

COUNCIL COMMUNICATION

9AGENDA TITLE: Public Benefits Program Grant – Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate- Pilot Project (\$25,000)

MEETING DATE: August 2, 2000

PREPARED BY: Electric Utility Director

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That the City Council approve a Public Benefits Program Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to establish a pilot project known as the Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:: The City of Lodi Electric Utility is proposing the creation of a pilot project: the Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate. In an effort to expose the residents of Lodi to various energy efficient and environmentally friendly products, this particular pilot project will promote the use of rechargeable electric mulching lawn mowers. The total requested Public Benefits Program grant for the project is \$25,000. Here is how the pilot project will be designed:

- available only for Lodi Electric Utility customers;
- a total of six (6) rechargeable electric mulching lawn mowers will be purchased and available to Lodi residents on a one-week "loaner/trial basis." The loaner lawn mowers will be delivered to each customers home for its trial use by Electric Utility staff (staff will also be responsible for picking up the lawn mowers once the one-week trial use is complete);
- if the resident is satisfied with the operation and performance of the designated lawn mower, they would be eligible to receive a voucher in the amount of \$200 towards the purchase of a new, electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower;
- the vouchers for an electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower must be utilized at one of the three (3) participating Lodi vendors (A-1 Saw & Mower, Wright Motors, and Orchard Supply Hardware) within 30 days of date of the voucher;
- if residents participating in the program currently own a gasoline-powered lawn mower, they must turn-in that lawn mower to the vendor they have selected before they purchase an electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower (all three (3) participating vendors have agreed to accept the older, gasoline-powered lawn mowers for proper disposal).

Numerous electric utility providers around the state, and nation, have successfully implemented similar projects, including Sacramento Municipal Utility District and the Salt River Project. The benefits associated with electric rechargeable mulching lawn mowers include: no air pollution produced by the operation of these lawn mowers, they are easier to start than gasoline-powered lawn mowers, the electricity charge to operate a 24-volt electric rechargeable lawn mower is less than \$5 per year, and electric rechargeable lawn mowers produce less than half the amount of noise compared to gas lawn mowers.

After researching this product and investigating the merits of electric rechargeable mulching lawn mowers, the City of Lodi Electric Utility respectfully recommends approval of this Public Benefits Program grant and the creation of the Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate. The pilot project is a qualifying component of the City of Lodi Public Benefits Program, categorized as a Research, Development & Demonstration Services project.

APPROVED: _____


H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager



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FUNDING:

164607-Public Benefits Program Fund
(Category-Research, Development & Demonstration Services)

Funding Approval:

Ruby R. Paite for
Vicky McAthie, Finance Director

Alan N. Vallow
Alan N. Vallow
Electric Utility Director

PREPARED BY:

Rob Lechner, Manager of Customer Programs

ANV/RL:lst

C: City Attorney

APPROVED: _____

H. Dixon Flynn - City Manager

RESOLUTION NO. 2000-138

A RESOLUTION OF THE LODI CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING
THE CITY MANAGER TO PROVIDE A PUBLIC BENEFITS
PROGRAM GRANT TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM
KNOWN AS THE LODI LAWN MOWER REBATE

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WHEREAS, the State has mandated that beginning January 1, 1998, the City of Lodi is obligated to fund various programs through a Public Benefits Charge (PBC) based on a historical electric revenue requirement; and

WHEREAS, the requirement amounts to approximately \$1M per year that must be dedicated to qualifying programs such as energy efficiency. A further stipulation is that these efforts must be done on the customer's side of the meter in order to qualify; and

WHEREAS, in an effort to expose Lodi residents to various energy efficient and environmentally friendly products, a Public Benefits Program Grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 is requested to establish a pilot program known as the Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate. This particular pilot project will promote the use of rechargeable electric mulching lawn mowers. The pilot project will be designed as follows:

- Available only for Lodi Electric Utility customers;
- A total of six (6) rechargeable electric mulching lawn mowers will be purchased and available to Lodi residents on a one-week "loaner/trial basis." The loaner lawn mowers will be delivered to each customer's home for its trial use by Electric Utility staff (staff will also be responsible for picking up the lawn mowers once the one-week trial use is complete);
- If the resident is satisfied with the operation and performance of the designated lawn mower, they would be eligible to receive a voucher in the amount of \$200 towards the purchase of a new, electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower;
- The vouchers for an electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower must be utilized at one of the three (3) participating Lodi vendors (A-1 Saw & Mower, Wright Motors, and Orchard Supply Hardware) within 30 days of the date of the voucher;
- If residents participating in the program currently own a gasoline-powered lawn mower, they must turn in that lawn mower to the vendor they have selected before they purchase an electric rechargeable mulching lawn mower (all three (3) participating vendors have agreed to accept the older, gasoline-powered lawn mowers for proper disposal).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lodi City Council hereby authorizes the City Manager to provide a Public Benefits Program grant in the amount of \$25,000 to fund the pilot program known as the Lodi Lawn Mower Rebate, specifically designed for Lodi Electric Utility customers.

Dated: August 2, 2000

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I hereby certify that Resolution No. 2000-138 was passed and adopted by the Lodi City Council in a regular meeting held August 2, 2000 by the following vote:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – Hitchcock, Land, Nakanishi, Pennino and Mann
(Mayor)

NOES: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None

ABSTAIN: COUNCIL MEMBERS – None



SUSAN J. BLACKSTON
City Clerk